What is claimed is:

1.   A method for securing an access provider, the method comprising:

monitoring communications with at least one access provider for a partially-completed connection transaction; and

terminating the partially-completed connection transaction when the partially-completed connection transaction remains in existence for a period of time that exceeds a threshold period of time.

2.   The method as in claim 1, wherein the monitoring comprises:

detecting partially-completed connection transactions initiated by an access requestor; and

measuring the period of time that a partially-completed connection transaction remains in existence.

3.   The method as in claim 2, wherein the monitoring further comprises comparing the period of time with the threshold period of time.

4.   The method as in claim 1, wherein the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a connection transaction and the access requestor subsequently fails to send a reply.

5.   The method as in claim 4, wherein the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a connection transaction based on a return address that differs from an actual return address of the access requestor.

6.   The method as in claim 5, wherein the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed connection transactions wherein the return address is an Internet protocol address that differs from the actual return address of the access requestor.

7.   The method as in claim 1, wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring communications with the at least one access provider based on TCP communications for partially-completed connection transactions.

1   8.   The method as in claim 7, wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring a

2   process whereby an access requestor sends a SYN request and the at least one access

3   provider sends a SYN acknowledgement.

1   9.   The method as in claim 1, wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring

2   communications with a plurality of access providers for partially-completed connection

3   transactions.

1   10.   The method as in claim 1, wherein the terminating comprises resetting a

2   communication port located on the at least one access provider.

1   11.   The method as in claim 1, wherein the threshold period of time is configurable

2   such that the terminating comprises terminating the partially-completed connection

3   transaction when the partially-completed connection transaction remains in existence for a

4   period of time that exceeds a configurable threshold period of time.

1   12.   The method as in claim 2, wherein the access requestor is a client and the

2   access provider is a host such that the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed

3   connection transactions between at least one client and at least one host.

1   13.   The method as in claim 2, wherein the access requestor is a client and the

2   access provider is a host such that the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed

3   connection transactions between at least one client and a plurality of hosts.

1   14.   The method as in claim 2, wherein the access requestor is a client and the

2   access provider is a host such that the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed

3   connection transactions between a plurality of clients and at least one host.

1   15.   A system for securing an access provider, comprising:

2   means for monitoring communications with at least one access provider for a

3   partially-completed connection transaction; and

4   means for terminating the partially-completed connection transaction when the

5   partially-completed connection transaction remains in existence for a period of time that

6   exceeds a threshold period of time.

1   16.   The system of claim 15, wherein the means for monitoring comprises:

2   means for detecting partially-completed connection transactions initiated by an access

3   requestor;

4   means for measuring the period of time that a partially-completed connection

5   transaction remains in existence; and

6   means for comparing the period of time with the threshold period of time.

1   17.   The system of claim 15, wherein the means for monitoring comprises means

2   for detecting partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor

3   initiates a connection transaction and the access requestor subsequently fails to send a reply.

1   18.   The system of claim 17, wherein the means for monitoring comprises means

2   for detecting partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor

3   initiates a connection transaction based on a return address that differs from an actual return

4   address of the access requestor.

1   19.   The system of claim 15, wherein the means for monitoring comprises means

2   for monitoring communications with the at least one access provider based on TCP

3   communications for partially-completed connection transactions whereby an access requestor

4   sends a SYN request and the at least one access provider sends a SYN acknowledgement.

1   20.   The system of claim 16, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access

2   provider is a host such that the means for monitoring comprises means for detecting partially-

3   completed connection transactions between at least one client and at least one host.

1   21.   A system for securing an access provider, comprising:

2   a monitoring component that is structured and arranged to monitor communications

3   with at least one access provider for a partially-completed connection transaction; and

4   a terminating component that is structured and arranged to terminate the partially-

5   completed connection transaction when the partially-completed connection transaction

6   remains in existence for a period of time that exceeds a threshold period of time.

1   22.   The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component comprises:

2   a detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed

3   connection transactions initiated by an access requestor; and

4   a measuring component that is structured and arranged to measure the period of time

5   that a partially-completed connection transaction remains in existence.

1   23.   The system of claim 22, wherein the monitoring component further comprises

2   a comparing component that is structured and arranged to compare the period of time with

3   the threshold period of time.

1   24.   The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component comprises a

2   detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection

3   transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a connection transaction and the

4   access requestor subsequently fails to send a reply.

1   25.   The system of claim 24, wherein the monitoring component comprises a

2   detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection

3   transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a connection transaction based on a

4   return address that differs from an actual return address of the access requestor.

1   26.   The system of claim 25, wherein the monitoring component comprises a

2   detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection

3   transactions wherein the return address is an Internet protocol address that differs from the

4   actual return address of the access requestor.

1   27.   The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component is structured and

2   arranged to monitor communications with the at least one access provider based on TCP

3   communications for partially-completed connection transactions.

1   28.   The system of claim 27, wherein the monitoring component is structured and

2   arranged to monitor a process whereby an access requestor sends a SYN request and the at

3   least one access provider sends a SYN acknowledgement.

1   29.   The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component is structured and

2   arranged to monitor communications with a plurality of access providers for partially-

3   completed connection transactions.

1   30.   The system of claim 21, wherein the terminating component comprises a reset

2   component that is structured and arranged to reset a communication port located on the at

3   least one access provider.

1   31.   The system of claim 21, wherein the threshold period of time is a configurable

2   threshold period of time.

1   32.   The system of claim 22, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access

2   provider is a host such that the monitoring component comprises a detection component that

3   is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection transactions between at

4   least one client and at least one host.

1   33.   The system of claim 22, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access

2   provider is a host such that the monitoring component comprises a detection component that

3   is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection transactions between at

4   least one client and a plurality of hosts.

1   34.   The system of claim 22, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access

2   provider is a host such that the monitoring component comprises a detection component that

3   is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection transactions between a

4   plurality of clients and at least one host.

1   35.   The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component and the
2   terminating component are included in a switch that receives communications from a host
3   computer system.

1   36.   The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component and the
2   terminating component are included in a host computer system that receives communications
3   from a switch.